Established by the University of Wollongong Australia in 1993, the University of Wollongong in Dubai (UOWD) has grown to become one of the most prestigious private universities in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with a long-standing reputation for academic excellence, graduate employability and exceptional student experience.

UOWD delivers high quality education and research programs that enhance the capacity of the UAE to achieve its goals, while meeting the demands and needs of the global employment market.

Arguably Australia’s most successful off-shore higher education facility, UOWD was the first private western university in the UAE. Its diverse student population promotes cultural, ethical and social development.

Originally known as the Institute for Australian Studies, UOWD now has 380 staff and 3,700 students from 108 nationalities enrolled across 38 degree programs. UOWD offers courses in Business, Finance, Computer Science, Engineering, Educational Studies, International Studies, and Media & Communications at its campus in Dubai Knowledge Park. In addition, UOWD College offers a wide range of general and pre-tertiary language courses and communication development programs. These programs are intrinsically linked to the development of the UAE.

In addition, UOWD’s Language Studies Centre offers a wide range of general and pre-tertiary language courses and communication development programs. UOWD’s Foundation Studies Program was accredited in 2017 and provides students with a pathway to develop the foundational knowledge and study skills to progress into undergraduate studies at UOWD.

UOWD integrates teaching, research, community and business linkages at global and regional levels to value-add economically, socially and culturally.

Fully-accredited programs
All academic programs at UOWD are accredited by the Ministry of Education – Higher Education Affairs through the Commission for Academic Accreditation. UOWD also holds an academic authorisation from the Dubai Knowledge and Human Development Authority.

In addition, all UOWD programs are quality assured by UOW Australia, which is registered with the Tertiary Education and Quality Standards Agency, the national regulator of the higher education sector in Australia.

As a dual-accredited institution, UOWD students are able to receive either UAE or Australian qualifications. UOWD degrees are recognised within the UAE, in the Gulf Corporation Council (GCC) and internationally for further education and employment in the private and public sectors.

During 2017, UOWD also received professional accreditation from the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, Chartered Institute of Marketing, European Foundation for Quality Management, Australian Human Resources Institute, and CPA Australia.

UOWD delivers an academic curriculum and teaching practices that reflect the quality and standards of UOW Australia, which is among the top 2 per cent of universities worldwide, one of the top 25 best modern universities globally and among the world’s top 1 per cent of institutions for graduate employment outcomes.

Building on success
UOWD conferred its 10,000th degree in 2017 and continues to expand its offerings in line with continuously changing needs in the region.

Also in 2017, UOWD launched the Executive MBA program and introduced the Executive MBA Scholarship for Women, reinforcing the University’s commitment to support the empowerment of women in the UAE.

UOWD also recently launched the Bachelor of Civil Engineering and Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering, to address the need for skilled engineers in the UAE. Postgraduate programs in Educational Studies and Nursing are also to be introduced.

In 2018, UOWD and Politecnico di Milano’s Graduate School of Business formed a partnership to develop prestigious luxury brand management postgraduate programs in the Middle East.

UOWD’s tremendous growth has necessitated the construction of a new campus in Knowledge Park. Following an agreement between UOWD and TECOM in 2016, an official ground-breaking ceremony took place in 2017 and construction is expected to be finished by the end of 2019.

Diversity in research
UOWD’s vision is to promote a culture of research, innovation and collaboration to bring sustainable benefits to business and society. As part of this, UOWD continues to invest in growing its international research profile through a range of initiatives including supporting interdisciplinary and inter-campus UOW/ UOWD research projects.
A recent example of this has been the Desert Rose collaboration, where students and staff from UOWD, UOW and TAFE NSW worked together to design a sustainable building for the Solar Decathlon Middle East 2018. For this global competition, the design has had to not only provide a home for occupants with age-related disabilities, but to also consider cultural elements and Dubai’s climate.

There are more than 25 students enrolled in UOWD’s DBA/PhD programs, with many students engaged in research related to governmental organisations within the UAE and Gulf Corporation Council. Research at UOWD maintains links with a wide range of organisations such as Maersk, ADNOC, Arabtec, Dubai Chamber of Commerce, Dubai Municipality, Dubai Quality Group, and European Foundation of Quality Management.

**Simulation and Smart Systems Research Centre**

Through the Simulation and Smart System Research Centre, UOWD has become renowned for innovations that impact a variety of sectors, including health, education, urban planning, sustainability, engineering and computing.

The Centre (S3) was established in 2014 and is focused on design and development of innovative hardware and software solutions in simulation and smart systems. The facility if the first of its kind in the UAE and houses start-of-the-art technology, including holography, smart sensor devices, simulation and haptic rendering software and hardware, and 3D modelling systems.

Research groups at the Centre focus on the application of technology to address lifestyle challenges that are particularly relevant to the UAE, such as healthcare, urban planning, transportation, energy use and security systems.

The three discipline areas are: Smart Systems, Robotics, Sensor Networks and Ubiquitous Research; Sound and Music Computing; Digital Signal Processing; and Information Retrieval and Artificial Intelligence.

**Partnerships for innovation**

Support from industry partners helps students integrate real-world practices with theory, so they are equipped to address complex business problems.


UOWD maintains a range of partnerships with academic organisations both in the GCC and internationally, including the BINUS University in Indonesia, Community Colleges for International Development USA, Emirates College of Technology in Abu Dhabi, Euro Jordanian Advanced Business Institute Jordan, Fast Lane, National Research Foundation, and the British University in Dubai.

UOWD’s executive training courses and knowledge exchange programs offer the opportunity for business professionals to collaborate directly with the University to achieve their goals.

**Community engagement and alumni**

The University is dedicated to engaging with its communities through public lectures, academic events and recreational events. Annual events include charity events, UOWD’s Innovation Fair, Mathalon Competition, Industry Expert Lecture Series, Robotics Competition, and Tech-G Summer Camp for Girls.

UOWD’s success is not only based on its academic excellence, but is largely due to its alumni who are doing remarkable work in the UAE region and beyond. UOWD has more than 10,100 alumni, many whom now occupy high-profile positions in public and private sector organisations both locally and across the globe.

UOWD has teamed up with Dubai Business Women Council for the first study of its kind in the region which will contribute to public policy initiatives aimed to heighten career leadership development opportunities among women in the UAE. A Women in Leadership Summit is held annually, and the UOWD-DBWC Women in Leadership series continues to be supported.

Another community partnership UOWD is involved in is supporting STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) development in schools. Activities range from consulting and offering advice on curriculum development for teaching programming to running competitions that challenge students’ knowledge, creativity and teamwork.

**Future direction**

UOWD’s growth mirrors the growth of the UAE population in general. In October 2014, His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Maktoum, Vice-President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, launched the UAE National Innovation Strategy with the aim of making the UAE one of the most innovative nations in the world within seven years. In line with the Strategy, the Science, Technology and Innovation Policy was adopted by His Highness Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE. The policy is a turning point in the country’s march towards progress, economic diversification and prosperity, and aims to prepare the UAE for a post-oil world.

UOWD has the experience and expertise to offer in many of the areas of interest to the UAE due to its understanding of the region, research strengths, and capacity to produced skilled human capital.

UOWD’s priorities for the future include:

- Enhancing facilities by developing the new UOWD Campus in Dubai Knowledge Park.
- Continuing to evolve the suite of programs including offerings in new discipline areas such as Health and Education.
- Conducting high impact research across disciplines and in collaboration with partners.
- Engaging industry to align programs to emerging job requirements and to provide opportunities for student internships and research partnerships.
- Improving UOWD’s analytics capabilities to make more informed decisions and better understand and support students.

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The University of Wollongong attempts to ensure the information contained in this publication is correct at the time of production (November 2018); however, sections may be amended without notice by the University in response to changing circumstances or for any other reason. Check with the University for any updated information. UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG CRICOS 00102E